

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment under Rule 116 is merited as it raises no new issues and requires no further search.

Claims 10-18 and 20-29 are pending in the instant application. Independent claims 10 and 20 have been amended to overcome the Examiner's art rejections. Claim 19 has been cancelled. Claims 26-29 have been added to provide Applicants with the scope of protection to which they are believed entitled.

Amended independent claims 10 and 20 require that a liquid-releasing hole be formed in an **upper part** of the first (liquid accommodating) bag thereby allowing the heated liquid to escape the first inner bag **as vapor**. See also page 5 lines 7-9 of the specification.

In contrast, Yoshio '614 discloses a structure in which a liquid accommodation bag 20 is put on a drink/food accommodation bag 30 and the liquid flows from the **bottom part** (25, Fig. 2) of the liquid accommodation bag so as to wet the drink/food accommodation bag. It is necessarily to follow from the Yoshio '614 disclosure that the liquid contained in the liquid accommodation bag escapes the bag in the **liquid state** (because the discharge hole is at the bottom), and not as vapor as presently claimed.

The missing elements are neither supplied by the other applied references.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended independent claims 10 and 20 are patentable over the applied art of record. Claims 11-18 and 20-29 are considered patentable at least for the above reason. Claims 11-18 and 20-29 are also patentable on their own merit since these claims recite other features of the invention neither disclosed, taught nor suggested by the applied art.

For example, new claims 26, 28 require that the outer bag has a generally **spherical** shape. See also Figs. 1-3. An advantage of this feature is to render the outer bag strong enough to sustain a high pressure caused by the liquid vapor escaping from the first (liquid accommodating) bag. The claimed shape is disclosed in nor or suggested by the applied art of record, especially Yoshio '614, where the liquid is not disclosed to be heated until it vaporizes.

Accordingly, all claims in the present application are now in condition for allowance. Early and favorable indication of allowance though an Advisory Action is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP



Kenneth M. Berner
Registration No. 37,093

USPTO Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: May 7, 2002
KMB/lcw

MARKED-UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 19 has been canceled.

Please amend claims 10 and 20 as follows:

10. (Amended) A container, comprising:

an outer bag;

a first inner bag accommodated in said outer bag and filled with a liquid, said first inner bag being equipped with an internal heating element for heating said liquid thereby raising a pressure of said liquid inside said first inner bag, said first inner bag being made liquid-impermeable except at least for a liquid-releasing hole that is positioned in an upper part thereof and closed by a first seal configured to open when the pressure of said liquid reaches a predetermined level thereby allowing said heated liquid to escape said first inner bag as vapor; and

a second inner bag accommodated in said outer bag and containing therein a substance to be mixed with said liquid, said second inner bag being made liquid permeable at least partially for allowing said heated liquid, after escaping said first inner bag, to enter said second inner bag and to heat and be mixed with said substance;

said outer bag having a vapor-releasing hole that is formed at the top of said outer bag and closed by a second seal configured to open when a pressure inside said outer bag reaches a predetermined value, and a liquid-releasing hole formed at the bottom of said outer bag for selectively discharging said heated and mixed liquid.

20. (Amended) A container, comprising:

an outer bag;

a first inner bag accommodated in said outer bag and filled with a liquid, said first inner bag being made liquid-impermeable except at least for a liquid-releasing hole that is positioned in an upper part thereof and closed by a first seal configured to open when a pressure inside said first inner bag reaches a predetermined level by heating said liquid, thereby allowing said heated liquid to escape said first inner bag as vapor; and

a second closed inner bag accommodated in said outer bag and containing therein a substance to be mixed with said liquid, said second inner bag being made liquid permeable at least partially for allowing said liquid, after escaping said first inner bag, to enter said second inner bag and to heat and be mixed with said substance.